



Morning Highlights

July 29, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-44
Time: 12:00 pm

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

SMOKE

Several large fires are burning throughout interior Alaska. Smoke from fires may impact populated areas, depending upon wind direction. Fire activity on the Wood River 1 Fire and the Railbelt Complex is expected to continue into next week, and smoke will continue to drift into Fairbanks and interior communities. To learn about protecting yourself from wildland fire smoke, visit:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

NEW WILDLAND FIRES

Six new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Tuesday.

- The human-caused **Fort Yukon Fire** was reported by local residents burning in black spruce. The fire was contained and controlled at .1 acre.
- The human-caused **Stuart Creek #4 Fire** was reported by Eielson range control. The 5 acre fire is burning in tundra on military land in a limited fire management area. Three CL-215 water-scooping aircraft knocked down the fire, which is currently in monitor status.
- The human-caused **Broken Mirror Fire** was reported by helitack personnel in the Fairbanks area. The .1 acre fire was contained and controlled by a strike team of forestry engines and a helicopter dropping buckets of water. The fire is currently in monitor status.
- The human-caused **298 & 302 Rich Fires** were a series of three black spots along the Richardson Highway between mileposts 298 and 302. The fires were reported by motorists. A strike team of forestry engines and a helicopter crew responded. The fires are being investigated and are currently in monitor status.
- The human-caused **1271 AK Highway Fire** was reported by a motorist in the Fairbanks area. The .1 acre in the Tanana Zone was contained and controlled by a strike team of forestry engines and a helicopter crew. A strike team of forestry engines and a helicopter crew responded. The fire is being investigated and is currently in monitor status.
- The lightning-caused **Gay Gulch Fire** was reported by a smokejumper aircraft. The .5 acre fire is about 5 miles southeast of the Ft. Knox Gold Mine. Two helitack crews responded and a helicopter dropped buckets of water on the fire, which is burning in mixed hardwoods.

GENERAL FIRE SUMMARY

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center reports 460 fires have burned **1,794,315.8** acres this year. Twelve fires are staffed and 73 fires are active across Alaska. At this time last year, 334 fires had burned 79,527.5 acres.

STAFFED FIRES

The **Wood River 1 Fire**, about 25 miles south of Fairbanks is 79,569.9 acres. The fire is moving east of Wood River. Twelve personnel remain working on the incident. Fire behavior was low on Tuesday.

The **Railbelt Complex** grew to 350,686 total acres Tuesday. There are 235 fire personnel on the complex, which includes the **Minto Flats South Fire**, the **Lunch Lake Fire**, and the un-staffed **June Creek Fire**. Crews continue to protect structures, Native Allotments, and timber values along the Tanana River, as well as the Arctic Wolf drill rig site. On Tuesday, eight smokejumpers were deployed to Totec Lake to begin structure protection. A Type 2 Incident Management Team will assume control of the fire late Wednesday.

The **Little Black One Fire** was more accurately mapped and is now 232,589 acres. There are now 71 personnel staffing the fire for Native Allotment protection, including the Midnight Sun Hotshots, the Venetie #2 Crew, and 16 smokejumpers (deployed Tuesday to conduct burnout operations). The fire is 70% active and creeping in all directions. The fire is in the Upper Yukon Zone and is 18 miles northeast of Circle.

The **Zitziana Fire** remained at 112,534 acres. Crews and smokejumpers will continue cabin protection measures and protective burnouts at Wien and West Twin Lakes. Aerial resources were grounded at Clear Helibase Monday due to high winds. There are 41 personnel working on the fire.

The **Chakina Fire** in the Copper River Area has consumed 47,365 acres and remains staffed by 33 personnel. An engine, a helicopter, and the Pioneer Peak Hotshots were released Tuesday. Structure protection assessments have been completed on the incident.

TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Temporary Flight Restrictions are in place over multiple fires in Alaska. Pilots are asked to check NOTAMS for information.

RED FLAG WARNINGS/ WEATHER OUTLOOK

A Red Flag warning remains in effect until 8 p.m. this evening for strong winds for a portion of the central interior. The fire weather watch has been cancelled for a portion of the eastern interior. Specific information about Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at: <http://afshome/predsvcs/weather.php>

FIRE INFORMATION PHONE NUMBERS

For updated information about the **Wood River 1** Fire, near Fairbanks, call **907-388-7526**.

For updated information about the **Railbelt Complex fires** which includes the Minto Flats South Fire, Lunch Lake Fire and the June Creek Fire, call the Fire Information Office at **907-378-3843**. The Incident Command Post is located at the Nenana Airport. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: www.inciweb.org.

For updated information about the Shanta Creek Fire, contact the Kenai Refuge at **907-262-7021** or the Alaska Division of Forestry at **907-260-4262**. Fire information is posted at www.inciweb.org and <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Email can be addressed to r7shanta@fws.gov.

For updated information about the Chakina Fire, call the Chakina Fire Information Office at **907-529-0511** or the National Park Service Office in Anchorage at **907-644-3414**. Email for the Chakina Fire may be sent to: ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com. Fire information is also posted at www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm

STAFFED FIRE SUMMARY

Taken from the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Daily Situation Report

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Railbelt Complex	NW of Nenana	350,686 acres	Type 3 Incident Mgt. Team
			Augusta Hotshots
			Chena Hotshots
			Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
			Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
			Yukon T2IA Crew
			Delta #2
			USFS Interagency Type2 IA
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			
Minto Flats South	12 mi. W of Nenana	337,720 acres	235 personnel in Complex
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana	12,802 acres	
June Creek	21 mi. NW of Healy	164 acres	
Other Fires			
Wood River 1	25 mi. S of Fairbanks	79,570 acres	12 personnel
Sheenjek	46 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	48,172 acres	3 personnel

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	32,500 acres	89 personnel
			Allakaket #2 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	232,590 acres	71 personnel
			Venetie #2 Type 2 crew
			Midnight Sun Hotshots
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	49,794 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	112,534 acres	41 personnel
			Denali Type 21A crew
Green Slough 2	13 mi. SE of Tanana	4.4 acres	8 personnel
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	29,543 acres	4 personnel
Gay Gulch	13 mi. NE of Fairbanks	0.5 acres	10 personnel
Bear Paw	53 mi. W of Healy	401 acres	8 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	47,365 acres	33 personnel

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

News releases, the Daily Situation Report, and additional information about these and other fires in Alaska, including maps, are posted or available at:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov>

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at:

<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

For daily fire information, please visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations, click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials:

- <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

Today's AICC Morning Highlights are compiled by Mike McMillan and Diane Hunt (BLM Alaska Fire Service).